

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Precipitation across Oregon was minimal this past week and conditions returned to hot and dry. However, nighttime low temperatures did fall in the upper thirties in several south central counties. Medford and Ontario recorded highs of 100 degrees. Fire danger remains critical in Wasco County. Fires in Klamath and Wallowa counties were active last week, according to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (NWCC). Soil moisture conditions range from about 1 to 1.5 inches below normal across much of the State. All but three weather stations reported no precipitation.

Field Crops: Small grain harvest about done with a few fields from late plantings, some spring grains and fields at higher elevation still left to harvest. Some grain harvest in north central restarted after showers and raised humidity allowed increased moisture content in standing grain. Lots of irrigation was applied to hay fields with plans for second and third cuttings. Grass seed harvest was winding down. Most of the grass seed straw had been baled and is in storage. Sugarbeet seed harvest continued. Peppermint harvest was underway. Third cutting of alfalfa hay continued but should be finished by the end of the week in some areas.

Vegetables: In Jackson and Josephine counties, vegetable growers continued getting their vegetables out to roadside stands and local farmers markets. Lots of fresh sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, bell peppers, summer squash and green beans were available. Cooler weather slowed growth; nighttime temperatures were in the thirties and forties. Green beans harvest was well advanced in Clackamas County and sweet corn harvest moved into high gear. In Umatilla County, the Norkota potato crop was not handling the recent heat.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries and greenhouses were doing lots of irrigation and watering of plants. The big event this week is the Far West Nursery Show in Portland, which is one of the biggest nursery shows in the country. Southern Oregon coast Easter lily growers were scaling bulbs and getting ready to start planting next year's crop.

Fruit: Summer pear harvest began in the lower Hood River Valley with Red Clapp and Bartlett pears picked in the earliest orchard sites. Early pear harvest also began in Jackson County. Blueberries were harvested on the southern coast and blackberry harvest continued in the Willamette Valley. Peach harvest continued while tart cherries were harvested.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Conditions were warm and dry across the State and pasture land continued to deteriorate. As of August 17, 39 percent of pasture land was reported to be in very poor or poor condition. In response to the dry conditions, ranchers were busy irrigating pastures and providing supplemental feed. In Jackson County, weaning of early spring calves was reported.

Crop Progress Week Ending 8/17/03

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley harvested (%)	85	80	74	62
Spring wheat harvested (%)	88	69	77	66
Winter wheat harvested (%)	93	85	94	85
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.9	6.4	—	—

Soil Moisture Week Ending 8/17/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	42	43	15	—
Subsoil (%)	42	44	14	—

Crop Condition Week Ending 8/17/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	12	27	43	18	—

CLACKAMAS: Most grain and grass seed harvest has been completed. Evergreen blackberry harvest in full swing. Other berry fields being renovated. Green bean harvest well advanced. Sweet corn picking moving into high gear. Most summer vegetables in good supply for the many farmers markets. Many of the nurseries are preparing for the Far West Show next week. Livestock remain in good condition as the pasture conditions deteriorate. Supplemental feeding is the norm. Warm, dry weather continues. Tomatoes, cucumbers, and sweet corn joined green beans, summer squash and carrots at dinner time. Peaches and Gravestine apples are ready but very scarce. Pumpkins are big enough now for identification and the sunflowers are blooming. By this time, we are weary of heat and dust. Every day, more of the calves find the creep feeder.

COOS/CURRY: Blueberry harvest at a coastal farms was active. Cranberry growers continued to focus on irrigation; crop was sizing nicely. Some Easter lily growers were scaling bulbs; fields were ready for planting. Dry and warm weather continued.

JACKSON: Sweet corn, tomato, and melons being harvested. Low night temperatures are helping lawns to green up. Pear harvest has begun, with early Red Clap variety. Grain harvest is about done, with a few fields from late plantings still to be done. Some hay, mostly alfalfa, still being done. Lots of irrigation on hay fields with plans for second and third cuttings. Some early pears harvested this week. Peach harvest mostly completed. Wild blackberries being picked, but size and quality is down due to the lack of summer rains. Vegetable growers getting harvested vegetables out to roadside stands and for sale at local farmers markets. Lots of fresh sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, bell peppers, summer squash and green beans for sale. Greenhouses working on starts of fall vegetables and flowers. Nurseries still doing upkeep on new, and ready to seel stock. Lots of watering, feeding of plants and trees and shrubs. Ranchers doing some weaning of early spring calves. Lots of irrigation of pastures to keep forage growing. Most all livestock on good pasture looking good. Temperatures early in the week were about normal, nights in upper fifties. By the weekend temperatures were back to the mid to high nineties during the day and sixties at night. We could still use a good rainy week to help out with needed moisture.

JOSEPHINE: Wine grapes are doing well. Table grapes are ripening. Truck gardens continue to produce and are selling wares quickly. Our cooler weather has slowed the ripening process. The nightshade family is ripening very slowly and the corn and squash have been slowed in growth. The nighttime temps were in the thirties and forties. Not good for ripening or setting on. Weather continues dry but nice with daytime temperatures in the eighties and nighttime temperatures in lower forties.

MARION: Grass seed harvest winding down. Most of the grass seed straw has been baled and was in storage. Sugar beet seed harvest continues. Peppermint harvest underway. Third cutting alfalfa continues as dry weather continues but should be finished by end of week. Winter wheat harvest will be completed soon; yields are variable with some rather low ones reported but there are a few reports of fairly good yields. Average yield should be well below last year. Quality is mostly good. Some mint is being cut for the second time.

POLK: Dry conditions continue to persist around the county; supplemental feeding of livestock is needed in some cases to maintain animal health. Spring wheat is still being harvested with lower than normal yields

WASHINGTON: Red Clover for seed maturing. Field corn tasseling; sweet corn nearing harvest. All roadside stands have corn, cucumbers, squash, new potatoes, rhubarb and other vegetables. Hot weather finished pastures; therefore supplemental feeding continues. Oats were harvested for seed and late planted oats were cut and baled for hay. Two days were at 90 degrees.

YAMHILL: Tart cherry harvest is finished and the crop came in less than expected. Peach harvest continues. Some filbertworm spraying is occurring in various orchards.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Haying, combining and mint harvest underway. A little shriveling of wheat due to heat, but overall good yields reported.

HARNEY: Dry, hot and dusty. Cooling off at night. Meadow hay and second cutting alfalfa finished. Rye grain being harvested.

HOOD RIVER: Summer pear harvest began in the lower Hood River Valley with Red Clapp and Bartlett pears picked in the earliest orchard sites. Fruit growers in the middle and upper valley prepared for harvest.

SHERMAN: Grain harvesting just restarted after showers and raised humidity allowed moisture content in standing grain to increase. Fuel prices increased dramatically and have farm families scurrying for ideas to reduce travel and expenses. In the field, those finished with harvest are taking care of Russian Thistles in stubble and rod weeding in summer fallow.

UMATILLA: Norkota crop did not handle the recent heat very well.

WALLOWA: Harvesting starting in parts of the county. Fall crops seem to be holding their own, but spring crops are looking a little thin. Heat and dry weather throughout most of the week continued to deteriorate range conditions. Irrigation water was still in good supply for most of the county.

WASCO: Winter wheat harvest rapidly being completed. There is some spring barley and spring wheat at higher elevations to be harvested. Third cutting of alfalfa hay underway. Cattle are holding their own on the dry pastures. Harvest of the stone fruit crops continued through the week. Fire danger is critical all over. 4-H farm kids were showing their livestock animals at the Tygh Valley County Fair this past week.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING AUGUST 17, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	48	80	63	3	95	18	0.01	-0.27	1	59.92	-5.73	91	180
Crescent City	50	69	60	2	74	11	0.00	-0.21	0	58.65	-6.03	91	126
Florence	44	80	63	3	94	17	0.00	-0.28	0	75.60	-0.11	100	149
North Bend	52	72	62	3	86	14	0.00	-0.21	0	64.33	1.57	103	144
Tillamook	44	77	62	3	85	19	0.00	-0.35	0	83.60	-4.03	95	168
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	48	93	69	3	134	21	0.00	-0.20	0	33.39	-8.84	79	120
Eugene	46	93	68	0	127	1	0.00	-0.23	0	40.18	-8.59	82	145
Hillsboro	49	94	67	1	120	8	0.06	-0.18	2	36.59	-0.42	99	146
McMinnville	48	92	67	2	122	4	0.00	-0.14	0	40.20	-2.56	94	151
Portland	55	94	70	2	144	11	0.01	-0.22	1	33.73	-1.97	94	146
Salem	51	88	69	3	134	15	0.00	-0.14	0	39.46	0.73	102	148
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	51	96	70	-2	144	-9	0.00	-0.10	0	33.40	2.67	109	108
Medford	51	100	72	-2	155	-6	0.00	-0.14	0	23.25	4.67	125	106
Roseburg	52	96	71	2	147	9	0.00	-0.14	0	31.79	-0.58	98	124
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	46	92	67	1	120	9	0.00	-0.14	0	14.27	0.59	104	105
Heppner	50	96	70	1	143	6	0.00	-0.14	0	11.62	-1.92	86	105
Hermiston	49	99	73	2	165	8	0.00	-0.07	0	7.82	-0.91	90	77
John Day	50	97	71	4	148	20	0.00	-0.21	0	11.62	-1.24	90	103
Moro	51	92	70	3	139	14	0.00	-0.09	0	10.31	-0.53	95	80
Pendleton	51	98	72	-1	158	0	0.00	-0.14	0	11.36	-0.38	97	96
The Dalles	56	99	75	8	174	55	0.00	-0.12	0	13.89	1.66	114	85
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	42	89	65	2	104	10	0.00	-0.14	0	7.53	-3.89	66	65
Burns	37	96	66	2	114	11	0.00	-0.14	0	8.44	-1.20	88	88
Klamath Falls	39	87	62	-6	83	-37	0.00	-0.14	0	11.69	-1.53	88	89
Lakeview	34	88	63	-4	90	-19	0.00	-0.14	0	4.56	-10.78	30	47
Redmond	39	94	67	1	118	8	0.00	-0.14	0	7.28	-1.02	88	73
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	38	94	66	-2	111	-5	0.00	-0.21	0	9.20	-1.22	88	92
Joseph	46	90	67	7	122	45	0.00	-0.26	0	19.25	-5.04	79	140
La Grande	47	99	71	3	152	16	0.00	-0.21	0	12.30	-4.70	72	100
Union	48	99	72	5	152	34	0.00	-0.21	0	15.12	1.83	114	119
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	56	100	77	3	187	15	0.00	-0.07	0	8.27	-1.14	88	77
Rome	50	99	75	6	180	37	0.00	-0.11	0	7.08	-0.92	89	74

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2002.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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